

MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

April 14, 2008 – MINUTES

In attendance: Council Members: Chairman Jacob Wagner, Louise Brewster, Kathy Berg, Tom Peluso, Jan Bjork, Charlotte Kress, Shelly Heilweil, Lori Marchak, Sally Miller, Vickie Groeneweg, Carolyn Robinson, and Jerrold Johnson; Advocacy Members: Dennis Cox (AMDD), and Dorothy Eck; Guests: Michelle Wohl (Detention Center), Andrea Lower (Court Services), and John Watson (MHC, Drop-In). Staff: Glenda Howze.

Call to Order and Introductions – 12:05 PM. Chairman Wagner opened the meeting and allowed for introductions.

Public Comment – An agenda item was added: NAMI training in Helena. Also, Ms. Eck noted that our May 12th meeting conflicts with the League of Women Voters meeting on Mental Health and Legislation – they are to receive a report from the Interim Committee on this topic. This meeting typically takes place at the Episcopal Church at noon. Ms. Eck agreed to ask them if they would move their meeting to the Community Room and have them jointly.

Mr. Watson and Ms. Brewster attended the NAMI Connections Training and are now trained facilitators for the peer to peer sessions. "Connections" is another group/program such as peer to peer that is 90 minutes long and has a problem-solving focus. They gave a brief report on what was learned. This training will be highly beneficial for the Drop-In Center. Mr. Watson noted that as the manager of the center he will attend all of the training to become certified in all areas. The Drop-In Center will be open in the mornings, but will be used primarily by the Mental Health Center. The hours for "public" use will be 2PM – 8PM. From 8PM-9PM they hope to be able to give people rides home and are planning to offer talks from NAMI on a weekly and/or monthly basis. They are hoping to open by May 1 but are having trouble getting furniture. The money from the state is coming in slowly. A monthly schedule for events at the center will be created; they will have a washer and dryer available for use by patrons as well. Mr. Watson noted that the goal is to have the best center in the state. Lt. Robinson requested that Mr. Watson come and talk to the officers about what is offered at the center as they may be able to use this information and resource during the course of their work.

Discussion took place regarding mandatory reporting and how this may affect people at the Center and their willingness to open up. Mr. Watson noted that the Center will always have the CRT Team at their disposal as well.

Mr. Peluso reported that NAMI is helping to sponsor the Memphis training for law enforcement. Sheriff Cashell is sending officers to the CIT Training. His support is appreciated. Ms. Lower reported that the CJCC (Criminal Justice Coordinating Council) has a subcommittee that is working on mental health issues. The committee includes members from Court Services, the Sheriff's Office, NAMI and the Mental Health Center, as well as Court Administrator Jan Bjork – they hope to eventually be able to put together a team to train officers in Gallatin County.

Approval of Minutes (March 2008) – Mr. Peluso made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Ms. Bjork seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

"Mental Health for Everyone" Planning Discussion – Ms. Marchak presented her thoughts, noting that there is a large gap between what we know about mental health and what the community knows about it. There are many more issues than people realize. To qualify for "mental illness" status, a person has to have

a cluster of problems. In actuality, most people have mental health problems, and treatment is more available than people realize. The biggest problem is the lack of awareness. Ms. Marchak presented a "white paper" document on *Mental Health Promotion for All*. There has been a lot of scientific research in the last 10 years on this topic. 95% of people haven't heard anything about mental health. This topic involves three things: 1) Awareness of our state of mind. 2) Accurately and empathetically understand these awareness's. 3) Acting on all the information in positive ways for ourselves and others. Ms. Marchak also discussed the public health model of mental health and the definition of Attachment Style(s). Secure attachment: Feel what you are feeling, respond without judgment and with understanding. Insecure attachment: Tend to avoiding tuning in to others, or react to other's states of mind with anxiety.

Mr. Peluso noted that Intermountain Children's Home specializes in attachment style. Ms. Brewster stated that one of her life's missions is to get "debilitating" into the definition of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder - without that term, individuals are denied services for this type of diagnosis. Discussion regarding early intervention, early home visits, and the line between this and governmental interference. Ms. Marchak stated that there is an information gap that needs to be filled, to empower those that may want to have more information. Possibly making use of the County's website for this may be one venue.

Priority Table Updates - Michelle Wohl, Detention Center, explained that there are budget constraints in Court Services that hinder their mental health efforts. They are working together on a Justice/Mental Health collaborative grant that will help work on a diversion from jail program. They may request a letter of support from the LAC. Mr. Peluso recommended that Dennis Alexander may be able to assist with their any drafting problems they may encounter. May 6 is the deadline for submittal. Mr. Johnson made a motion to support their application and write a letter of support for inclusion with the submittal. Ms. Miller seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Peluso offered to sign a letter from the CSAA as well.

Mental Health Campus: Mr. Peluso stated that MHC is waiting for the results of their grant request to continue work towards the campus. They are also looking at 16 beds for a BHIF on the campus.

Legislature: Ms. Eck reported that the interim committee has been discussing the need for a children's psychiatric hospital and Bozeman would be a good location.

Transportation: Ongoing look at Streamline, how well do they meet people's disabilities needs, hours, access to things such as the drop-in center, etc. The group requested that Commissioner Murdock invite Chris Kukulski attend an LAC meeting.

Mental Health Meeting in May: Ms. Brewster reported that she is trying to arrange a table at the library to display mental health information.

Mental Health Court: Andrea Lower, Court Services, reported that this is part of the implementation portion of the grant.

Legislative Agenda: Mr. Peluso passed out the legislative agenda from the SAA Summit Meeting of the 3 SAA's. There is almost a consensus on the legislative priorities of the group. Executive Summary: 1) Keep what we've got. 2) Continue to move services to the community. The Governor's plan 189 - reduce census at the State Hospital by using existing community resources. The cost per day at the State Hospital is \$470.00; the cost of services in the community is \$150.00. The money to implement 72 hour presumptive eligibility has recently been allocated. The 16 bed facility may not be licensed as a BHIF right away. They plan to move the Hope House into the BHIF as part of the 16 beds originally. Four beds will be swing beds and can be secure beds as well. The facility will be used for housing the Crisis Response Team and Mental Health Urgent Care for medication management, overnight care, etc.

Agency Reports - MHC: Dan Aune has left the MHC. He also served as our representative to the CSAA. Each LAC has a representative and alternate to the board. We need to come up with someone to serve as our representative. Mr. Peluso suggested that we wait for a new director to be appointed before making this decision. They interviewed three people last Wednesday for the director position. One is from Butte and is preferred. He is anxious to be here, but hasn't accepted the position yet.

Agenda for May Meeting - Co-meeting with the League of Women Voters on the Interim Committee Report.

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 PM